

July 17, 1999

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22401 Long Grove Rd.  
Deer Park, IL 60010

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

Dear FDA:

I am absolutely opposed to xenotransplantation. Although I am not a doctor, nor do I have any sort of medical or scientific background whatsoever, I am a concerned citizen. My concern is for the following reasons:

- Particularly because of threats of inter-species virus transmissions.
- Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for zenotransplants, but there is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses.
- The U.S. should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on zenotransplants.
- There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

Until we know more about interspecies relationships, this type of thing should not go on.



Sincerely,

  
Rachel Thompson

99D-0557

C253

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